



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, EUROPE, AND SEVENTH ARMY
THE COMMANDING GENERAL
UNIT 29351
APO AE 09014-9351

AEAJA

4 May 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army in Europe Command Policy Letter 31, Possession of Privately Owned Firearms in Germany

1. Reference Army in Europe Regulation 190-6, Registration and Control of Privately Owned Firearms and Other Weapons in Germany, 6 December 2002.

2. Commanders will ensure that their personnel comply with Army in Europe policy on possessing privately owned firearms (POFs). Military personnel who violate this policy are subject to adverse administrative action and to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Civilian employees and family members who violate this policy are subject to adverse administrative action under USAREUR Regulation 27-9 (Misconduct by Civilians) and adverse action for misconduct under the appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund disciplinary systems. Military personnel, civilian employees, and family members who violate this policy are subject to action by German authorities, including criminal prosecution, in addition to or instead of action taken by U.S. authorities.

3. POF registrations (AE Form 190-6B) are not valid under German law as a basis for possessing, acquiring, or using POFs in Germany. In addition to registering POFs with the USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), POF owners in Germany who exercise actual control over their POFs must have a *Waffenbesitzkarte (WBK)* (German Weapons Possession Card) to comply with German law. POFs not covered by a valid *WBK* must be stored in a rod and gun club or a community or unit arms room. Personnel with POFs not covered by a *WBK* or stored in a rod and gun club or community or unit arms room are in violation of this policy.

4. Storing POFs in unit arms rooms or rod and gun clubs is not intended to be a permanent solution for maintaining unregistered POFs in Germany. On or before 1 December 2003, USAREUR personnel who have POFs stored in unit arms rooms or rod and gun clubs that are not covered by a valid *WBK* will—

a. Ship them at personal expense to a storage location outside Germany or (if the owner is within 6 months of a permanent change of station (PCS)) arrange for pickup by a U.S. Government-contracted carrier for commercial storage at U.S. Government expense. Arrangements for pickup may be made by appointment with local base support battalion transportation counselors. If POFs are transported in connection with a PCS or similar move, the POFs must remain stored according to paragraph 3 until the day they are shipped. Personnel who choose to mail their POFs to the United States must do so according to applicable German and U.S. customs and postal regulations.

This letter is available at <https://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library/home.htm>.

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b. Not sell or otherwise dispose of their POFs without first obtaining written approval from the USAREUR RMV.

5. By 1 December 2003, Army in Europe personnel with POFs in Germany must have a valid *WBK* for the POFs. After that date, POFs not covered by a *WBK* will be considered contraband and disposed of in coordination with the German authorities.

6. POF owners are responsible for ensuring that their POFs are used, maintained, and stored in a safe and secure manner according to U.S. and German laws, regulations, and common sense. Ultimately, only POF owners can take the measures needed to prevent theft and improper use of their POFs.

7. Army in Europe Regulation 190-6 and the Office of the Provost Marshal, HQ USAREUR/7A, website at <http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/opmhome.html> provide more information on acquiring, registering, storing, shipping, and exporting POFs and ammunition in Germany.



B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

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